

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2816

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJ: SWEDISH COMMUNIST PAPER CRITICAL OF SOVIET PRESS ATTACK
ON CARRILLO

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE WEEKLY SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK)
ORGAN NY DAG ON JULY 1 RATHER THOROUGHLY CRITIZED THE SOVIET
JOURNAL NOVOYE VREMYA FOR HAVING BRANDED SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY
CHAIRMAN CARRILLO AS "ANTI-SOVIET". VPK PARTY SECRETARY
TORE FORSBERG, IN A SEPERATE STATEMENT ON THE SAME DATE, COMPLETELY
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DEFENDED THE NY DAY EDITORIAL.

2. NY DAG POINTED OUT THAT NOVOYE VREMYA'S WRATH WAS INCURRED
BY CARRILLO'S BOOK "EUROCOMMUNISM AND THE STATE" WHICH ASSERTS
THE LEGITIMACY OF BUILDING DIFFERENT ROADS TO SOCIALISM, AND
WHICH SPEAKS OF POSSIBILITIES TO TRANSFORM CAPITALISTIC SOCIETIES
IN A "DEMOCRATIC MASS STRUGGLE" IN WHICH DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND

PRIVILEGES WILL BE DEFENDED AND EXPANDED. NY DAG STATED THAT CARRILLO'S IDEAS ARE "OBVIOUSLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE VPK'S PARTY PROGRAM". "IT IS THEREFORE SURPRISING AND UNFORTUNATE NOVOYE VREMYA CHOSE TO MAKE A VEHEMENT ATTACK AND CONDEMNATION OF CARRILLO'S BOOK. TO DISCUSS AND DRAW LESSONS FROM THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES THAT THE FIFTEEN STATES HAVE MADE THAT ARE BUILDING SOCIALISM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CENSURE OF SOCIALISM AND ANTI-SOVIETISM." THE PAPER CONCLUDED THAT "WITHOUT A LIVING DISCUSSION, MARXISM WILL STAGNATE AND DIE."

3. IN DEFENDING THE EDITORIAL, SECRETARY FORSBERG SAID THE VPK CRITICISM WAS NOT A NEW PARTY POSITION DIRECTED AGAINST MOSCOW. HE CONTINUED, "WE HAVE ALWAYS HELD THAT RELATIONS WITH BROTHER PARTIES MUST BE BASED ON RESPECT FOR EACH OTHERS' VIEWS, SOVERIGNTY AND THE RIGHT TO FIND FOR ONE'S SELF THE POLITICAL PATH THAT LEADS TO SOCIALISM." ACCORDING TO FORSBERG, VPK RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW NOW ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE VPK "TO STRENGTHEN THEM FURTHER". THE VPK, HE SAID, WANTS ALSO TO HAVE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIALIST AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETIES.

4. IN ANTICIPATION PERHAPS OF HEAVY CRITICISM OF THE NY DAG EDITORIAL BY BOTH THE STALINIST ELEMENT OF SWEDISH COMMUNISM (THE COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY) AND THE SOVIETS, FORSBERG EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE VPK CRITICIZES THE CPSU, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS IN A "CONSTRUCTIVE MODE", DONE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO

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STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES. THIS IS DIFFERENT, FORSBERG SAYS, FROM BOURGEOIS CRITICISM OF COMMUNIST PARTIES WHICH IS "BASED ON A DESIRE TO CREATE DIVISION". END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: FORSBERG IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT THE NY DAG EDITORIAL DOES NOT REPRESENT A NEW PHASE IN VPK RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. INDEED, IT IS QUITE CONSISTENT WITH RECENT VPK CRITICISM OF THE CZECH PARTY FOR HARASSMENT OF CHARTER 77 ACTIVISTS AND OTHER STATEMENTS IN A SIMILAR VEIN STRETCHING BACK TO THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968. IT IS PRECISELY THIS DEFENSE OF LIBERAL, NATIONAL COMMUNISM WHICH LEAD EARLY THIS YEAR TO THE FORMAL SEPARATION FROM THE VPK OF ITS STALINIST WING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY LED BY ROLF HAGEL. PERRY

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